



# Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

## Birds

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge straddles the Arctic Circle in northwestern Alaska. The refuge provides approximately 2.15 million acres of pristine habitat for more than 180 bird species.

Extensive tundra wetlands containing grass/sedge meadows dominate the landscape. These wetlands, which include 24,000 lakes and ponds, provide breeding, resting and feeding areas for multitudes of migratory waterfowl and

shorebirds returning from North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Boreal spruce forests and alder/willow thickets trace stream and river drainages, providing critical edge habitat for visiting songbirds and year-round residents.

Tundra swans, white-fronted geese and sandhill cranes herald the return of spring as nearly 18 hours of sunlight bathe the Selawik refuge and it becomes vibrantly alive. For the next four

months a remarkable diversity of birds make Selawik their home. These seasonal visitors return to southern wintering grounds as daylight hours dwindle with the arrival of fall.

This checklist describes the abundance and status of 187 bird species that have been documented on the Selawik refuge and in the surrounding area. More than 100 of these species breed, or potentially breed, on the refuge. At least ten are year-round residents.

Common Name	AC	SC
___Red-throated Loon	U	B
___Pacific Loon	C	B
___Common Loon	R	S
___Yellow-billed Loon	R	S
___Horned Grebe	R	B
___Red-necked Grebe	A	B
___Short-tailed Shearwater*	U	M
___Pelagic Cormorant*	U	M
___Greater White-fronted Goose	C	B
___Emperor Goose	+	V
___Snow Goose	C	M
___Snow Goose (blue morph.)	+	V
___Canada Goose (taveneri)	C	B
___Canada Goose (minima)	+	V
___Brant	U	M
___Trumpeter Swan	R	V
___Tundra Swan	A	B
___Whooper Swan	+	V
___Gadwall	+	V
___Eurasian Wigeon	R	M
___American Wigeon	A	B
___Mallard	U	B
___Blue-winged Teal	+	V

Common Name	AC	SC
___Northern Shoveler	U	B
___Northern Pintail	A	B
___Green-winged Teal	C	B
___Green-winged Teal * (carolinensis)		
___Green-winged Teal * (nimia)	+	
___Canvasback	R	B
___Redhead	+	
___Greater Scaup	A	B
___Lesser Scaup	U	V
___Steller's Eider	+	
___Spectacled Eider*	R	M
___King Eider*	U	M
___Common Eider	R	B
___Harlequin Duck	R	S
___Surf Scoter	U	B
___White-winged Scoter	U	V
___Black Scoter	C	B
___Long-tailed Duck	C	B
___Bufflehead	R	B
___Common Goldeneye	R	B
___Common Merganser	R	V
___Red-breasted Merganser	U	B
___Osprey	R	V



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Common Name	AC	SC	Common Name	AC	SC	Common Name	AC	SC
__ Bald Eagle	R	V	__ Dunlin	R	B	__ Common Raven	C	P
__ Northern Harrier	C	B	__ Curlew Sandpiper	+		__ Purple Martin*	+	
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk	R	S	__ Stilt Sandpiper	R	M	__ Horned Lark	U	S
__ Northern Goshawk	R	B	__ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	R	M	__ Bank Swallow	C	B
__ Rough-legged Hawk	R	S	__ Ruff*	+		__ Cliff Swallow	R	V
__ Golden Eagle	R	P	__ Long-billed Dowitcher	U	B	__ Barn Swallow*	C	V
__ American Kestrel	R	V	__ Common Snipe	C	B	__ Northern Shrike	U	S
__ Merlin	R	S	__ Red-necked Phalarope	C	B	__ Black-capped Chickadee	U	P
__ Gyrfalcon	R	P	__ Red Phalarope	C	M	__ Boreal Chickadee	C	S
__ Peregrine Falcon	R	V	__ Pomarine Jaeger	U	M	__ Gray-headed Chickadee	U	M
__ Spruce Grouse	R	P	__ Parasitic Jaeger	U	S	__ American Dipper	R	B
__ Willow Ptarmigan	C	P	__ Bonaparte's Gull	U	B	__ Arctic Warbler	R	B
__ Rock Ptarmigan	U	P	__ Mew Gull	C	B	__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	R	S
__ Sandhill Crane	C	B	__ Herring Gull	U	S	__ Bluethroat	R	V
__ Black-bellied Plover	U	M	(smithsonienses)			__ Northern Wheatear	U	B
__ American Golden Plover	C	B	__ Herring Gull (vega)*	R	V	__ Gray-cheeked Thrush	A	B
(dominica)			__ Thayer's Gull	+	V	__ Swainson's Thrush	U	S
__ American Golden Plover	U	S	__ Slaty-backed Gull*	R	V	__ American Robin	A	B
(fulva)			__ Glaucous-winged Gull*	R	V	__ Varied Thrush	C	B
__ Mongolian Plover	+		__ Glaucous Gull	C	B	__ Yellow Wagtail	C	B
__ Semipalmated Plover	U	B	__ Black-legged Kittiwake	R	V	__ White Wagtail	R	V
__ Greater Yellowlegs	U	S	__ Sabine's Gull	R	M	__ American Pipit	U	S
__ Lesser Yellowlegs	U	B	__ Ross's Gull	R	M	__ European Starling	+	
__ Solitary Sandpiper	R	B	__ Ivory Gull	R	M	__ Bohemian Waxwing	U	B
__ Wandering Tattler	R	S	__ Arctic Tern	A	B	__ Orange-crowned Warbler	U	S
__ Spotted Sandpiper	R	B	__ Aleutian Tern*	U	B	__ Yellow Warbler	C	B
__ Upland Sandpiper	U	B	__ Common Murre	+		__ Yellow-rumped Warbler	U	V
__ Eskimo Curlew	+		__ Thick-billed Murre	+		__ Blackpoll Warbler	C	B
__ Whimbrel	A	B	__ Black Guillemot*	R	P	__ Northern Waterthrush	C	B
__ Bristle-thighed Curlew	R	V	__ Kittlitz's Murrelet*	R	B	__ Wilson's Warbler	U	B
__ Hudsonian Godwit	R	S	__ Horned Puffin	+		__ American Tree Sparrow	C	B
__ Bar-tailed Godwit	C	M	__ Tufted Puffin	+		__ Savannah Sparrow	U	B
__ Ruddy Turnstone	C	M	__ Great Horned Owl	U	P	__ Fox Sparrow	C	B
__ Black Turnstone	C	S	__ Snowy Owl	U	W	__ Lincoln's Sparrow	U	S
__ Surfbird	U	B	__ Northern Hawk Owl	U	P	__ Golden-crowned Sparrow	U	M
__ Red Knot	C	M	__ Great Gray Owl	R	P	__ White-crowned Sparrow	C	B
__ Sanderling	U	M	__ Short-eared Owl	U	B	__ Dark-eyed Junco	U	S
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	B	__ Boreal Owl	R	P	__ Lapland Longspur	U	B
__ Western Sandpiper	U	B	__ Common Nighthawk*	+	V	__ Snow Bunting	C	M
__ Least Sandpiper	C	B	__ Belted Kingfisher	U	B	__ McKay's Bunting	U	W
__ White-rumped Sandpiper	R	M	__ Downy Woodpecker	R	V	__ Rusty Blackbird	C	B
__ Baird's Sandpiper	R	B	__ Hairy Woodpecker	+		__ Common Grackle	+	
__ Pectoral Sandpiper	C	M	__ Three-toed Woodpecker	U	P	__ Rosy Finch	+	
__ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	U	M	__ Northern Flicker	R	P	__ Pine Grosbeak	U	P
__ Rock Sandpiper	+		__ Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	P	__ White-winged Crossbill	U	P
			__ Alder Flycatcher	A	P	__ Smith's Longspur	U	B
			__ Say's Phoebe	+		__ Common Redpoll	U	B
			__ Gray Jay	C	P	__ Hoary Redpoll	C	B

Abundance Codes (AC)		Status Codes (SC)	
A - Abundant; species is abundant in all proper habitat with all available habitat heavily utilized; sighting likelihood excellent.	R - Rare; species occurs regularly in the region but in very small numbers; sighting likelihood poor.	P - Permanent resident; species occurs year-round.	in the region.
C - Common; species occurs regularly in most proper habitat with some available habitat sparsely utilized; sighting likelihood good.	+ - Casual or accidental; species is beyond normal range; sighting likelihood very poor.	B - Breeder; species is known to breed	W - Wintering resident; species occurs in the region during winter, but breeds elsewhere.
U - Uncommon; species occurs in relatively small numbers or is unevenly distributed in higher numbers; sighting likelihood poor.	* - Observed in local area, but not on Selawik refuge.		S - Summer resident; species occurs in the region during summer, but may breed elsewhere.
			M - Migrant; species occurs when in transition between winter and breeding ranges.
			V - Vagrant; species occurs casually or accidentally.